

## Citizenship Class Tutors

How many amendments does the constitution have?

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

What is the most important right granted to US Citizens?

*...Stumped?*

These are just a sampling of the 100 American civics questions prospective American citizens are required to know. With careful study, most native-born Americans could pass the citizenship exam. ***But imagine trying to pass this test in a second language.***

Refugees from all over the world come to Minnesota fleeing persecution and violence in their homelands so traumatic that it prohibits them from returning. They have no place to call home. In America, refugees begin to rebuild their lives. After five years, they are eligible to apply for citizenship. However, the citizenship process involves a rigorous interview, during which refugees must answer questions about American history, government and geography. Many refugees have worked hard to learn daily English, but are unprepared for the kind of vocabulary and complexity required by the citizenship exam.

God has brought thousands of refugees and immigrants from all over the world to Minnesota. The American church has a unique opportunity to share the love of Christ with our refugee and immigrant neighbors by meeting a tangible need—citizenship preparation.

### The World Relief Minnesota Citizenship Class



World Relief Minnesota offers a weekly citizenship class to help refugees and immigrants prepare for the US citizenship exam. In the citizenship class, students learn the English and civics knowledge necessary to pass the citizenship exam. Classes are taught by an experienced volunteer teacher, and each student is paired one-on-one with a volunteer tutor. Classes meet Thursday nights, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the World Relief Minnesota office in Richfield. Over the past three years, the World Relief Minnesota citizenship class has served students from 25 countries and more than 60 “graduates” have gone on to pass their exams and become US citizens!

### How can I get involved?

We need volunteer tutors for citizenship class! This is a great opportunity to “get your toes wet” in cross-cultural ministry and make a new friend in the process. No previous ESL experience is necessary, just a heart to serve and demonstrate the love of Christ to the students through the relationships formed in the class. The time commitment is simply within the 2 hours of class, and tutors learn the civics material alongside their student during the lecture portion of the class, so there is no preparation needed outside class time. Tutors commit to the duration of the 10 week class sessions.



### How do I become a Citizenship Tutor for an immigrant or refugee?

1. To apply, please complete the volunteer application and background check form. Both can be found at the WRM website: <http://www.worldreliefmn.org>.
2. Meet with the Citizenship Class Coordinator.
3. Attend a volunteer orientation.
4. Get started! Report to Citizenship Class Coordinator for the duration of the 10 week class session.

### Contact:

For questions regarding the application process, please contact Katie Day, Community Engagement Coordinator, at 612-798-4332 or [m volunteers@wr.org](mailto:m volunteers@wr.org).

For questions about the specifics of volunteering at Citizenship Class, please contact Clarissa Willeke, Citizenship Class Coordinator, at 612-798-4332 or [MNCitizenship@wr.org](mailto:MNCitizenship@wr.org).